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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/587,904	06/06/2000	Junji Sato	MAE232	9961

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EXAMINER

GIBBS, HEATHER D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/587,904

Applicant(s)

SATO, JUNJI

Examiner

Heather D Gibbs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 10-12 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 and 13-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato (US 6,473,201).

Considering claim 1, Sato teaches of a method of analyzing and converting bi-level image data, applicable to line-density conversion in a facsimile machine comprising: a detection unit 3 detecting transition points in image data; and an adjustment unit 7 coupled to the detection unit, adjusting the image data according to the detected transition points (Col 1 Lines 8-10 and Col 3 Lines 14-27).

With regard to claim 2, Sato teaches wherein the image data are coded data that have not yet been expanded into bit-mapped image data, and by detecting said transition points from the coded data, the detection unit detects positions of margins (Col 2 Lines 65-67 and Col 3 Lines 1-13 and Fig 1)

Regarding claim 3, Sato teaches wherein the adjustment unit adjusts the image data by adjusting a printing position of the image data in a horizontal scanning direction (Col 7 Lines 14-37 and 52-62).

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 10,13, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sumida et al (US 5,383,754).

With regard to claim 10, Sumida et al teaches of a method of processing image data, representing an image of a page, in preparation for printing of the image data by a facsimile machine having predetermined printing margins, comprising the steps of: (a) detecting margins in the image of said page from the image data; (b) comparing the detected margins with the printing margins of the facsimile machine; and (c) modifying the image data according to differences between the detected margins and the printing margins (Col 32 Lines 27-59).

Considering claim 13, Sumida teaches wherein said step (c) comprises zooming the image of said page (Col 20 Lines 67-68 and Col 21 Lines 30).

Regarding claim 19, Sumida teaches of the method as discussed above in claim 10 wherein the detected margins include a left detected margin and a right detected margin, the printing margins include a left printing margin and a right printing margin, and step (c) further includes the steps of: (k) reducing the image of said page in width, by zooming the image horizontally, if the left printing margin exceeds the left detected margin and the right printing margin exceeds the right detected margin (Col 20 Lines 67-68 and Col 21 Lines 1-30); (l) shifting the image of said page rightward if the left printing margin exceeds the left detected margin and the right printed margin does not exceed the right detected margin;

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and (m) shifting the image of said page leftward if the right printing margin exceeds the right detected margin and the left printing margin does not exceed the left detected margin (Col 25 Lines 37-68 and Col 26 Lines 1-22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US 6,473,201) in view of Ishida et al (US 6,298,156).

Sato teaches of the apparatus as discussed above in claim 1, but fails to particularly point out wherein the adjustment unit adjusts the image data by zooming the image data.

Ishida teaches of an image processing apparatus that includes a magnification factor setting unit 140 used in conjunction with the variable-magnification procession unit 120 (Col 10 Lines 24-60 and Fig 1).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to conclude that Ishida's adjusting means would be useable in the facsimile machine of Sato. Sato's facsimile machine would easily be modified to include Ishida's adjusting means for zooming the image data since both systems are useable in a facsimile machine and allow for easy recognition of an image.

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6. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumida et al (US 5,383,754) in view of Cahill, III et al (US 4,792,981).

With regard to claim 11, Sumida discloses the method as discussed above in claim 10, but fails to particularly point out wherein said image data comprise run-length data and with regard to claim 12, Sumida disclosed the method as discussed above in claim 12, but fails to particularly point out wherein said step (c) comprises repositioning the image of said page.

Cahill, III teaches of repositioning the image data and wherein the run-length data is assigned to each scan line (Col 1 Lines 12-30 and Col 2 Lines 60-65).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the repositioning the image data and the run-length data to the facsimile method of Sumida. Sumida's method would easily be modified to include Cahill, III's run-length data and repositioning means to determine the length of scan lines in the facsimile and to position the margins for reading in the facsimile device.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-9,13-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather D Gibbs whose telephone number is 703-306-4152. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-4PM.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Heather D Gibbs
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

hdg
March 31, 2003


EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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